

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10917 182310Z

ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10917

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E.O.11652: XGDS-3 DIMPTD

TAGS: ESTC

SUBJECT: CONTROLS ON EXPORTS RELATED TO PETROLEUM
EXPLOITATION

REF: PRAGUE 1187

1. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE THE FULL BACKGROUND ON THEX
EXPORT CONTROL CASES MENTIONED IN THE REFTEL, WE AGREE
THAT ANY POLICY OF INFLUENCING SOVIET PETROLEUM PRODUCTION
THROUGH MANIPULATION OF THE EXPORT CONTROL MECHANISM
WOULD HAVE ONLY A LIMITED IMPACT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT
THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF
INDIVIDUAL CASES OTHER THAN ON THEIR OWN MERITS. INSOFAR
AS THERE IS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO AGREED USG POLICY ON
SOVIET PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, WE WOULD BE ILL ADVISED TO
TRY TO TAMPER WITH IT BY EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MATLOCK
IN REFTEL WERE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. WHILE EXPRESSING
PREFERENCE FOR LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET OPTIONS, THIS WAS NOT
IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF EXPORT CONTROL ADMINISTRATION.
IN FACT, IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE KEY DECISIONS ON
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PETROLEUM POLICY ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE SOVIET LEADER-
SHIP, AND ANY UNILATERAL USG POLICY TO RESTRICT EXPORTS
WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE MAJOR IMPACT, ASIDE FROM ADVERSE
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ONCE SUCH A POLICY BECAME KNOWN.
ON THE OTHER HAND, A SUBSTANTIAL RELAXATION OF CONTROLS IN
ORDER TO STIMULATE SOVIET PRODUCTION COULD DO A DISSERVICE
TO OUR STRATEGIC INTERESTS BY PROMIDING SOVIETS WITH

MILITARY-RELATABLE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATING
REWARDS OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL EXPORTS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT COMPLEX ISSUE OF SOVIET PETROLEUM
PRODUCTION DOES REQUIRE REVIEW AND DECISIONS AS TO HOW
U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST MIGHT BEST BE SERVED. ANSWERS TO
THESE QUESTIONS ARE BY NO MEANS SELF-EVIDENT, AT LEAST
FROM WHERE WE STAND, AND WE FEEL THAT ENTIRE ISSUE REQUIRES

MORE CAREFUL STUDY BEFORE WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO
JUDGE WHETHER CHANGES IN EXPORT CONTROL PROCEDURES ARE
WARRANTED. MATTOCK

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